

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reconfiguring a host computer, the method comprising:
5 enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface;
 intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and
 in response to intercepting the network message, disabling the network
10 interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine.
2. A method as in claim 1, wherein disabling the network interface includes:
 terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link
 layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the
15 host computer and the network through the network interface.
3. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
 identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command
 transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host
20 computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.
4. A method as in claim 3, wherein identifying that the network message is a
 reconfigure command includes:
25 detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) command transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on the host computer executing the
 DHCPFORCERENEW command.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for an assignment of a new network address supporting further communications through the network interface.
- 5 6. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
monitoring communications including commands received from over the network and destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and
wherein disabling the network interface includes temporarily disabling a
10 link supporting communications from the host computer through the network interface to deny the host computer access to the network, denial of access to the network prompting the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.
- 15 7. A method as in claim 1, wherein disabling the host computer includes:
temporarily terminating an electronic signal otherwise transmitted on a communication link from the network interface to the host computer to maintain a connection between the host computer and the network, termination of the electronic signal causing the host computer to initiate a routine to re-establish
20 another communication link through the network interface to access the network.
8. A method as in claim 1, wherein disabling the network interface causes the host computer to detect that the host computer is no longer able to communicate through the network interface, the host computer, in response, initiating a routine
25 to re-establish a link through the network interface to access the network via a different network service than used to access the network prior to the disabling of the network interface.
9. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:

identifying that the host computer supports a reconfiguration command associated with the network message;

in lieu of disabling the network interface, forwarding the network message to the host computer that, in turn, initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the reconfiguration command.

10. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a second network message through the network interface from over the network;

identifying that the second network message includes a reconfiguration command directed to second host computer; and

forwarding the other network message to the second host computer which executes the reconfiguration command to reconfigure the second host computer with a new network address.

11. A method for reconfiguring a host computer to access a network, the method comprising:

providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface;

forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface;

after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and

in response to detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message,

disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface includes:
supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface based on a connection oriented protocol.

13. A method as in claim 12, wherein disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.

14. A method as in claim 12, wherein disabling the network interface includes:
terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface.

15. A method as in claim 11 further comprising:
identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.

16. A method as in claim 15, wherein identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command includes:
detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) message transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of a network address of the host computer via the network message.

17. A method as in claim 12, wherein disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for an assignment of a new network address supporting further communications through the network interface.

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18. A method to support detecting operations performed by a host computer, the method comprising:

providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface;

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forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command for execution by the host computer;

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after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer executes the command in the network message.

19. A computer system supporting access to a network, the computer system including:

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a processor;

a memory unit that stores instructions associated with an application executed by the processor;

a communication interface that supports communication with nodes in the network; and

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an interconnect coupling the processor, the memory unit, and the communication interface, enabling the computer system to execute the application and perform operations of:

enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface;

intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and

5 in response to intercepting the network message, disabling the network interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine.

20. A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface includes:

10 terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface.

21. A computer system as in claim 19 further performing an operation of:

15 identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.

20 22. A computer system as in claim 21, wherein the operation of identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command includes:

25 detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) command transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on the host computer executing the DHCPFORCERENEW command.

23. A computer system as in claim 19, wherein disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for an assignment of a new

network address supporting further communications through the network interface.

24. A computer system as in claim 19 further performing operations of:

5 monitoring communications including commands received from over the network and destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and

10 wherein disabling the network interface includes temporarily disabling a link supporting communications from the host computer through the network interface to deny the host computer access to the network, denial of access to the network prompting the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.

15 25. A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the operation of disabling the host computer includes:

temporarily terminating an electronic signal otherwise transmitted on a communication link from the network interface to the host computer to maintain a connection between the host computer and the network, termination of the electronic signal causing the host computer to initiate a routine to re-establish another communication link through the network interface to access the network.

20 26. A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface causes the host computer to detect that the host computer is no longer able to communicate through the network interface, the host computer, in response, initiating a routine to re-establish a link through the network interface to access the network via a different network service than used to access the network prior to the disabling of the network interface.

27. A computer system as in claim 19 further performing operations of:

identifying that the host computer supports a reconfiguration command associated with the network message;

in lieu of disabling the network interface, forwarding the network message to the host computer that, in turn, initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the reconfiguration command.

28. A computer system as in claim 19 further performing operations of :

receiving a second network message through the network interface from over the network;

identifying that the second network message includes a reconfiguration command directed to second host computer; and

forwarding the other network message to the second host computer which executes the reconfiguration command to reconfigure the second host computer with a new network address.

29. A computer system supporting access to a network, the computer system including:

a processor;

a memory unit that stores instructions associated with an application executed by the processor;

a communication interface that supports communication with nodes in the network; and

an interconnect coupling the processor, the memory unit, and the communication interface, enabling the computer system to execute the application and perform operations of:

providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface;

forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network

message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface;

after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and

in response to detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message, disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

30. A computer system as in claim 29, wherein providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface includes:

supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface based on a connection oriented protocol.

31. A computer system as in claim 30, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.

32. A computer system as in claim 30, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface includes:

terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface.

33. A computer system as in claim 29 further performing operations of:

identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host

computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.

34. A computer system as in claim 33, wherein the operation of identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command includes:

detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) message transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of a network address of the host computer via the network message.

35. A computer system as in claim 30, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for an assignment of a new network address supporting further communications through the network interface.

36. A computer system coupled to a network that supports transmission of data, the computer system including:

means for enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface;

means for intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and

in response to intercepting the network message, means for disabling the network interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine.

37. A computer program product including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for processing data information, such that the

instructions, when carried out by a processing device, enable the processing device to perform the steps of:

enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface;

5 intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and

in response to intercepting the network message, disabling the network interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine.

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